

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
29 September 2005 (29.09.2005)

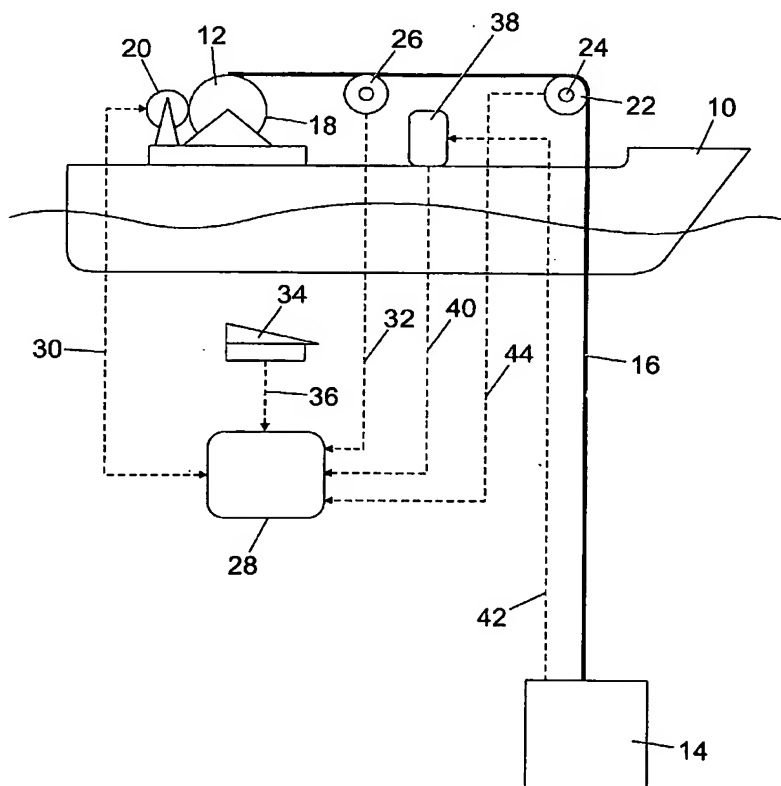
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/090226 A1**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **B66D 1/52** (74) Agent: **MURGITROYD & COMPANY**; Scotland House, 165-169 Scotland Street, Glasgow G5 8PL (GB).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB2005/001141 (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date: 18 March 2005 (18.03.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 0406336.8 19 March 2004 (19.03.2004) GB
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- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,

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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR HEAVE COMPENSATION



(57) Abstract: A heave compensation apparatus and method for a winch or crane system (12), the winch or crane system (12) preferably being provided on a vessel (10) and including a lift wire (16) for attachment to a load (14). The apparatus includes a vessel motion measurement device which may be in the form of a motion reference unit (38) for measuring the motion of the vessel, and a control device or computer (28) capable of receiving an output from the vessel motion measurement device and controlling the winch or crane system (12) according to the movement of the vessel (10), so as to stabilise the load (14). The apparatus may further optionally include one or more of: - a) a lift wire tension measuring device (22) for measuring the tension in the lift wire (16); b) a lift wire distance measurement device (26) which measures the length of lift wire (16) that has been paid out; and c) a load motion measurement device (42) for measuring the motion of the load.

WO 2005/090226 A1



SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**Published:**

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*